

I am sending my testimony from the FCC Hearing held in Richmond. I cannot find the public's comments anywhere, although I have found the comments of the panelists. This may be a duplicate mailing but I believe I sent it out incorrectly the first time.

Not one person that came out to testify (other than panelists) asked for a relaxing of current rules. I hope that does not go unnoticed.

I AM THE MOTHER OF A TWO YEAR OLD, LIVING HERE IN RICHMOND, AND I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DETERIORATING QUALITY OF TELEVISION IN THIS COUNTRY.

WHEN I WAS A CHILD, MY PARENTS MADE EDUCATIONAL FILMS AND I SOMETIMES APPEARED IN THEM. THEY OFTEN WERE SHOWN ON TELEVISION, NOT ONLY ON PBS BUT ALSO THE NETWORKS. THEY WERE FILMS ABOUT PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT, ABOUT READING AND WRITING, ABOUT ANIMALS, ABOUT WHAT WE MIGHT BE WHEN WE GREW UP. THEY WERE ENTERTAINING AND EDUCATIONAL - AND I WISH I COULD FIND PROGRAMS TODAY FOR MY LITTLE GIRL TO WATCH THAT WERE AS GOOD AS THOSE.

THE POINT IS, THERE WERE MORE WAYS BACK THEN FOR PEOPLE TO PRODUCE INTERESTING PROGRAMS AND GET THEM DISTRIBUTED ON TELEVISION. NOW THE MEDIA OUTLETS ARE PRETTY MUCH CONTROLLED BY HUGE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. THE BEST PROGRAMS DON'T GET ON THE AIR BECAUSE OF THE OBSESSION TO MAXIMIZE PROFITS. TODAY WE ARE BOMBARDED WITH SENSATIONAL, VIOLENT, MINDLESS SHOWS. THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY HAVE NO WAY TO USE THE AIRWAYS THAT SUPPOSEDLY BELONG TO US, EXCEPT FOR LOCAL CABLE ACCESS TV.

THE FCC SHOULD BE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING. THEY SHOULD PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE AND LOOK FOR WAYS TO USE THEIR REGULATING POWER TO ENCOURAGE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE SMALLER TELEVISION STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. WE DO NOT WANT FOX TELEVISION AND VIACOM OWNING EVERY STATION WE TURN TO ON THE DIAL. WE DO NOT WANT ONE CORPORATION QUIETLY BUYING UP TWELVE HUNDRED CHANNELS SO THEY CAN MAXIMIZE PROFITS BY MAKING FEWER PROGRAMS AND PRETENDING THEY ARE LOCAL BROADCASTS. THIS IS ALREADY HAPPENING IN RADIO. PLEASE, DO NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE WITH TELEVISION.

IF WE DO STILL LIVE IN A DEMOCRACY, WHICH IS AT WORK IN THIS ROOM TODAY, THEN WE NEED TO KEEP TELEVISION OPEN FOR AS MANY VOICES AS POSSIBLE.

I KNOW I SPEAK FOR SO MANY PARENTS IN THIS COUNTRY, WHO GREW UP LOVING TV, AND NOW WORRY ABOUT LETTING OUR KIDS WATCH IT AT ALL.